From:	Peter Van Praagh <peter@halifaxtheforum.org>
To:	ehud barak <ehbarak1@gmail.com>
CC:	
Date:	Fri, 9/27/2013 10:10:35 PM
Subject:	Re: Follow up

Moadim LeSimcha--

I know this is important and I have not forgotten. The issue is not a simple one because, as I mentioned on the phone, we are working hard to build a place at Halifax where democracies strengthen their security relationships with each other. Azerbaijan is a special case. Exactly because it is in a specifically strategic location it is able to maintain solid security relationships with the US and others without too much pressure for political reform. Indeed, Azerbaijan counts on it. Inviting this guy to Halifax can be seen as another reward for maintaining strategic ties, but making no progress on their domestic situation.

That said, of course I am taking this request seriously and will discuss it with my board when we meet on Monday. They are prepared for the conversation. I will tell you that one of the things that will come up is that a regular Azeri participant to Halifax, Mr. Ilgar Mammadov, was put in jail earlier this year on trumped up charges. Ilgar is a friend, a good guy and completely pro-Western and his being thrown in jail has put a sour taste in people's mouths, including David Kramer, the President of Freedom House, who is on my board.

I hope it goes without saying that I want to be helpful to Israel and again, am taking this seriously. I will send you a note with more information on Monday afternoon. Shabbat Shalom and all the best, Peter.

On 9/27/13 12:59 PM, "ehud barak" wrote:

>Hi Peter
>Any news re AZ Min of National Sec?
>Moadim LeSimcha
>Best
>Ehud
>Sent from my iPhone